

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

L-03 RSR-01 /109 W

----- 119692

R 181551 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1085

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16728

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, UN

SUBJECT: ROK PRIME MINISTER' S VISIT TO FRANCE

BEGIN SUMMARY. A QUAI OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE ROK/ GOF TALKS HAD BEEN DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO A DISCUSSION OF THE ROK INTERNATIONAL PREDICAMENT AND OF BILATERAL PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

1. ROK INTERNATIONAL PREDICAMENT. IN CONVERSATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING ROK PRIME MINISTER, KIM JONG PIL' S, VISIT TO FRANCE FROM JUNE 4 TO 8, THE GOF FOUND THAT THE ROK WAS ENGAGED IN A SERIOUS REVIEW OF ITS ENTIRE POLITICAL SITUATION AS WAS INDICATED IN KIM' S JUNE 8 PRESS CONFERENCE. IT FINDS IT IS NOW IN AN IMPASSE IN ITS DIALOGUE WITH NORTH KOREA, AND WHILE THIS IMPASSE CONTINUES, ROK' S INTERNATIONAL POSITION IS INEVITABLY DETERIORATING. THE ROK IS THEREFORE EXAMINING ALL KINDS OF POSSIBLE COURSES OVER THE LONG, INTERMEDIATE AND SHORT TERM. THE LONG TERM PROSPECT OF REUNIFICATION SEEMS PROBLEMATIC AT THIS TIME. IT IS THEREFORE THE INTERMEDIATE STAGE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WITH NORTH KOREA-- WHICH LOOKS AS THOUGH IT WILL LAST FOR SOME TIME -- WHICH IS THE PRINCIPAL

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CONCERN. DURING THIS PERIOD THE ROK BELIEVES THAT IT MUST GAIN ACCEPTANCE BY THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, BUT ALL FEELERS IN THIS DIRECTION HAVE HAD NEGATIVE RESULTS. (DUZER SAID THAT THE ROK WAS NOT VERY SPECIFIC IN DESCRIBING WHAT KIND OF FEELERS HAD BEEN MADE TO WHICH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, BUT THE PRC AND USSR WERE MENTIONED BY KIM. DUZER THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS IN SOME CASES THE FEELER WAS MERELY A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, AND THE LACK OF A RESPONSE FROM PEKING OR MOSCOW WAS INTERPRETED AS THE REJECTION.) SEOUL IS CONCERNED ABOUT THIS LACK OF PROGRESS PARTICULARLY SINCE PYONG YANG, FOR ITS PART, WAS OBTAINING INCREASING RECOGNITION, FOR EXAMPLE, FROM THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

2. UNGA PROBLEM. IN THE SHORT TERM THE ROK WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE UNGA. SEOUL WAS NOW CONVINCED THAT THERE WOULD PROBABLY NO LONGER BE A MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF POSTPONING DEBATE ON THE KOREAN QUESTION. SEOUL WAS READY FOR A DEBATE AND IF A MAJORITY FAVORS IT, SEOUL WOULD NOT BE OPPOSED TO OBSERVER STATUS FOR PYONG YANG NOR THE DISMANTLING OF THE UN APPARATUS IN SOUTH KOREA. SEOUL' S GOAL IS THEREFORE NOT TO PREVENT DEBATE BUT TO CREATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR A DEBATE WHICH BEST SERVES ROK INTERESTS--OR HARMS THEM LEAST.

3. GOF REACTIONS. DUZER SAID THAT THE GOF HAD FOUND THE ROK VIEWS VERY REALISTIC, AND IT HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE ROK FRANKNESS AND COURAGE. THEY SHARED SEOUL' S VIEWS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF OBTAINING USSR AND PRC SUPPORT FOR A RELATIVELY LONG INTERMEDIARY STAGE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE FOR THE TWO KOREAS. (JUST PRIOR TO THE KIM VISIT, QUAI DIRECTOR FOR ASIA, FROMENT MEURICE, HAD TOLD THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR THAT AS PART OF THE " COEXISTENCE" POLICY, GOF WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE PYONG YANG UNTIL THE EASTERN COUNTRIES RECOGNIZED SEOUL.) GOF TOLD THE ROK IT WOULD ASSIST IN ANY PROGRAM WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE BEST CIRCUMSTANCES FOR A UNGA DEBATE ON THE KOREAN QUESTION.

4. BILATERAL RELATIONS. DAZER SAID THAT THE GOF/ ROK BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE VERY GOOD, AND THE RECENT CONVERSATIONS HAD BEEN FRUITFUL. THE GOF EXPECTED FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONS PARTICULARLY ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT.

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5. COMMENT: THE FRENCH WERE OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH THE KIM VISIT AS SHOWING A POLICY WHICH WAS APPROACHING ONE THEY CONSIDERED MORE REALISTIC AND FLEXIBLE, AND HENCE ONE WHICH THE GOF COULD SUPPORT. GDS
IRWIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS16728
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730622/aaaajewo.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <16-Oct-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980212
Subject: ROK PRIME MINISTER' S VISIT TO FRANCE BEGIN SUMMARY. A QUAI OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE ROK/ GOF TALKS HAD BEEN DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO A DISCUSSION OF THE ROK INTERNATIONAL PREDICAMENT AND OF BILATERAL PROBLROK PRIME MINISTER' S VISIT TO FRANCE BEGIN SUMMARY. A Q
TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, UN
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC
SEOUL
TOKYO
USUN

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005